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Agenda item 94

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir **Gerus** (Belarus)

Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled:

> "Environment and sustainable development:
>
> "(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;
>
> "(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;
>
> "(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
>
> "(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;
>
> "(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 19th, 20th and 22nd to 25th meetings, from 21 to 23 and on 26 October 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion of the

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in seven parts, under the symbol A/53/609 and Add.1–6.

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item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.19, 20 and 22–25). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3–7). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
Proposals not related to a specific sub-item	6

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 94. Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its fifth special session (A/53/25)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/53/156-E/1998/78)

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/53/487)

Letter dated 23 February 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the eighth session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held at Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997 (A/53/72-S/1998/156)

Letter dated 8 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the twenty-fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Doha from 15 to 17 March 1998 (A/53/95-S/1998/311)

Letter dated 9 April 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration by the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the further intensification of regional integration and the Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998 on the United Nations special programme for the economies of Central Asia (A/53/96)

Letter dated 27 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/165-S/1998/601)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 25.*

Letter dated 10 September 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/371-S/1998/848)

Letter dated 16 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-ninth South Pacific Forum, held at Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 24 and 25 August 1998 (A/53/416)

Letter dated 17 September from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/425)

Letter dated 30 September 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/453)

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of undertaking the review of progress made in implementing conventions related to sustainable development (A/53/477)

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the outcomes of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (A/53/449)

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States (A/53/65-E/1998/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States implemented, under implementation or envisaged for the period 1999–2003 by bilateral donors, United Nations organizations and regional and non-United Nations international organizations (A/53/358)

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the results of meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (A/53/451)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/53/516)

4. At the 19th meeting, on 21 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for the Economic and Social Affairs, who also introduced sub-item (a), the Director of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the Director of the Regional Office for North America of the United Nations Environment Programme (see A/C.2/53/SR.19).

5. At the 22nd meeting, on 22 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, under sub-item (b); a Chief of Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under sub-item (c); the representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, under sub-item (d); and the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under sub-item (e) (see A/C.2/53/SR.22).